

Message Text

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21

ACTION DLOS-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGR-05

AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01

OES-06 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAL-01 /125 W

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R 061153Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3456

USMISSION USUN

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION USNATO

USDOCOSOUTH

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 3598

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, TU,GR, US

SUBJ: GOT OFFICIAL'S COMMENTS ON LOS CONFERENCE

REF: A. USUN 1603 DTG 152239Z APR 76 (NOTAL),

B. ANKARA 2095 DTG 180947Z MAR 76

1. ON MAY 6, EMBOFF TALKED WITH MFA AEGEAN/LOS AFFAIRS
CHIEF RIZA TURMEN, WHO HAD RETURNED FROM NEW YORK EARLIER
IN THE DAY. TURMEN OFFERED THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS ABOUT
THE LOS CONFERENCE:

A. IT IS TOO EARLY TO TELL IF TURKEY WILL BE

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A SIGNATORY TO AN LOS AGREEMENT. TURMEN SAID THAT THERE

HAD SEEMED TO BE CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT VOICED FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE SINGLE NEGOTIATING TEXT (SNT) ON ISSUES IMPORTANT TO TURKEY, PARTICULARLY ON QUESTIONS OF DELIMITATION, SEMI-ENCLOSED SEAS AND THE REGIME OF ISLANDS. HOWEVER, TURMEN WAS UNCERTAIN IF THE SUPPORT WAS SUFFICIENT TO PRODUCE REVISIONS OF THE SNT SINCE MANY COUNTRIES HAD REMAINED SILENT.

B. ON THE LATTER POINT, HE DESCRIBED THE DISAPPOINTMENT OF THE TURKISH DELEGATION OVER WHAT HE SAID WAS THE GENERAL FAILURE OF THE USDEL EITHER TO SUPPORT THE TURKDEL ON ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO TURKEY OR TO TAKE A POSITION OF NEUTRALITY. BY CONTRAST HE SAID THAT TURKEY HAD COOPERATED CLOSELY WITH THE U.S. ON MANY ISSUES OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE U.S. HE NOTED THAT THE US COULD HAVE RESERVED ITS POSITION OR IN OTHER WAYS INDICATED ITS NEUTRALITY RATHER THAN REMAINING SILENT AND THUS, VIA THE "RULE OF SILENCE," SIGNIFYING ITS SUPPORT FOR SNT ARTICLES UNACCEPTABLE TO TURKEY.

C. TURMEN SPECULATED THAT THE US MIGHT NOW TRY TO "USE ITS INFLUENCE" WITH COMMITTEE II CHAIRMAN AGUILAR TO EFFECT CHANGES IN THE SNT TO MAKE IT ACCEPTABLE FROM THE TURKISH POINT OF VIEW (REF. A). HOWEVER, HE WAS SKEPTICAL THAT AGUILAR WOULD WANT TO "STICK HIS NECK OUT."

D. THE 12-MILE TERRITORIAL SEA ISSUE AND THE QUESTION OF DELIMITATION IN A SEMI-ENCLOSED SEA REMAINED THE KEY TO TURKEY'S INTERESTS. THEREFORE, HE SAID, THERE HAD TO BE LANGUAGE WHICH CALLED FOR EQUITY, NEGOTIATIONS AND "SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES" VERSUS THE EQUIDISTANCE PRINCIPLE. HE NOTED THAT TURKEY HAD NO OBJECTION IN PRINCIPLE TO EQUIDISTANCE AS LONG AS ITS OTHER INTERESTS WERE PROTECTED.

E. CONCERNING THE PROSPECTS FOR A SUMMER SESSIONS, HE SAID THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER'S SPEECH HAD MADE A "BIG IMPACT" ON THE CONFERENCE AS A WHOLE (MORE SO THAT ON COMMITTEE I IN PARTICULAR) AND THAT IT SEEMED "VERY LIKELY" THAT A SECOND SESSION WOULD BE HELD, PROBABLY BEGINNING AROUND JULY 26. TURMEN NOTED THAT MANY DELEGATIONS, INCLUDING TURKEY'S, DID NOT THINK IT POSSIBLE TO CONCLUDE NEGOTIATIONS AND APPROVE AN AGREEMENT IN THE SUMMER SESSION. ACCORDINGLY, THEY BELIEVED IT PREFERABLE TO HOLD A SOMEWHAT SHORTER SESSION OF FOUR TO FIVE WEEKS, POSSIBLY AGAIN IN NEW YORK. FOLLOWING THIS, THE DELEGATIONS WOULD HAVE TIME

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TO ANALYZE THE AGREEMENT AND OBTAIN FINAL INSTRUCTIONS FROM THEIR GOVERNMENTS BEFORE HAVING A CONCLUDING SESSION IN DECEMBER OR JANUARY TO RESOLVE FINAL POINTS AND THEN VOTE ON THE DOCUMENT.

F. TURMEN SAID THAT TURKEY HAD JOINED THE GEOGRAPHICALLY DISADVANTAGED/LANDLOCKED GROUP (GDS/LL) DURING THE COURSE OF THE NEW YORK SESSION. THIS MOVE HAD PROMPTED GREECE, ALTHOUGH RELUCTANTLY, ALSO TO JOIN THE GROUP.

2. TUMEN STATED THAT THE GOT AND GOG HAD " ALMOST NO" BILATERAL CONTACT IN NEW YORK. ACCORDINGLY, THE GOT IS UNSURE WHAT THE GOG HAS IN MIND FOR THE BERN AEGEAN TALKS. HE SPECUALTED THAT THE GOG MAY BE MORE INTERESTED IN DEMONSTRATING THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY THAT IN IDENTIFYING COMMON POINTS AND ATTEMPTING TO BRIDGE THE GAPS.

3. COMMENT: WE REMAIN CONCERNED OVER THE VERY REAL DANGER THAT, AS SET FORTH IN REF. B, THE DECISIONS REACHED IN THE LOS CONFERENCE COULD HELP SET OFF A GREEK-TURKISH WAR IN THE AEGEAN. WE WERE GRATEFUL FOR THE THOUGHTFUL MESSAGE (REF. A) FROM USDEL. WITH THE CONCLUSION OF THIS SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE AN ASSESSMENT OF THE LIKELY OUTCOME IN TERMS OF THOSE ISSUES WHICH MOST DIRECTLY AFFECT THE AEGEAN AND GREEK-TURKISH BILATEAL RELATIONS. AT THE SAME TIME, WE WOULD WELCOME ANY FURTHER THOUGHTS USDEL MAY HAVE ON WHAT CAN BE DONE TO OBTAIN LANGUAGE THAT WILL SATISFY THE BASIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES AND HELP HEAD OFF WAR IN THE AEGEAN.
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